AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor including:

a transition duct having a supply end, a main passage, a dispense end, and a discharge outlet at the dispense end;

a supply means for supplying paper particles to a supply end of ~~a~~ the transition duct, the particles being conveyed through ~~a~~ the main passage in the duct and expelled through ~~a~~ the discharge outlet ~~at a dispense end of the duct~~;

at least two contra-rotating helical conveying screws driven by a screw driving means and mounted in the transition duct, the screws each having at least one helical blade and being cantilevered at one end to the supply end and ~~are~~ unsupported at the dispense end of the duct;

wherein a substantially constant clearance between ~~one or more~~ the helical blades ~~on the screws~~ and the main passage allows for an even and uninterrupted flow of the particulate through the transition duct.

2. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 1, wherein there is also a constant clearance between the blades themselves, namely by positioning the blades of the screws 180° out of phase to one another.

3. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the clearance between the inside of the transition duct and the blades of the screws is between 50-100 mm.

4. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the supply means feeds particulate through an inlet opening in the transition duct located above the screws and adjacent the main passage.

5. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 4, wherein the screws each have a stepped shaft wherein the step in the

shaft is directly below the inlet opening, the smaller diameter maintained through the main passage to the discharge outlet.

6. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the shaft step is located at a point vertically below the periphery of the inlet that is adjacent the supply end of the transition duct.

7. (Original) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the shaft step is vertically below the periphery and slightly back from a direct line below the periphery and the inside of the inlet opening.

8. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in Claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein the shaft step is approximately 50mm back from a direct line below the periphery and the inside of the inlet opening.

9. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein a restriction is provided vertically below the periphery of the supply means that restricts the clearance between the supply end and the main passage.

10. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein an airflow at the dispense end of the transition duct is provided to create a vacuum effect to assist the particle flow through the conveyor and to create a negative pressure gradient between the inlet and outlet, thereby minimising the generation of dust in the hopper.

11. (Currently amended) A particulate matter conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, wherein two helical blades are provided on each of the helical screws.

12. (Cancelled)